

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ANKARA 01807 091911Z
ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T ANKARA 1807

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, TU, MASS
SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF SECRETARY'S ORAL MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER

REF: STATE 60401

1. LATE AFTERNOON MARCH 9, I CALLED ON FONMIN OKCUN TO CONVEY SECRETARY'S RESPONSE TO PRIMIN ECEVIT'S ORAL MESSAGE OF THE PREVIOUS DAY. AFTER LISTENING TO THE RESPONSE, OKCUN SAID THE ONLY POSITIVE POINT HE COULD DETECT WAS THE STATEMENT THAT THE US WILL MAINTAIN A "CONSTANT LOW-KEY SUPPORTIVE POSITION."

2. HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY HOPES THAT THIS (I.E., REFUSAL OF THE US TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT OF ITS POSITION ON THE DCA) WILL NOT BE EXPLOITED BY THE GREEKW SIDE AT THE MONTREUX SUMMIT. HE SAID THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HOPES VERY MUCH THAT THE SUMMIT MEETING WILL BE A SUCCESS.

3. I ASSURED HIM THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SHARED THAT HOPE. I ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD REACHED A VERY SENSITIVE POINT IN OUR RELATIONSHIP AND THAT I DID NOT FEEL THAT I COULD COMMENT FURTHER ON THE SECRETARY'S RESPONSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER. OKCUN SAID HE TOO WOULD NOT COMMENT BUT WOULD CABLE THE RESPONSE TO ECEVIT IMMEDIATELY. HE THEN

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WENT ON, HOWEVER, TO EXPRESS DISAPPOINTMENT AND SUSPICION ABOUT THE U.S. POSITION. HE POINTED OUT THAT MORE THAN SIX MONTHS AGO THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE DCA AND HAD BLAMED THE CONGRESS FOR INACTION. NOW, HE SAID, SOME CONGRESSMEN ARE URGING THE ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE ACTION BUT THE ADMINISTRATION IS REMAINING SILENT.

4. I SAID THAT I BELIEVED THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD MAKE ITS POSITION CLEAR EITHER AT OR PRIOR TO THE HEARINGS ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE. I REPEATED THAT I WAS NOT FREE TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF THE RESPONSE AND STARTED TO LEAVE. OKCUN CONTINUED TO EXPRESS HIS DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE REFUSAL OF THE US TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT AT THIS TIME. HE POINTED OUT THAT CYPRIOT PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU HAD WRITTEN A VERY STRONG LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER, MUCH OF WHICH HAD APPEARED IN THE PRESS. PRESIDENT CARTER HAD NOT ANSWERED THAT LETTER AND IN NOT DOING SO HAD LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT HE DID NOT TAKE ISSUE WITH KYPRIANOU'S STATEMENTS. WHAT THE TURKISH PEOPLE WANTED, HE SAID, IS SOME PUBLIC INDICATION FROM THE ADMINISTRATION THAT IT IS NOT GOING TO ALLOW THE GREEKS AND THE GREEK-CYPRIOTS TO CONTROL US POLICY WITH RESPECT TO TURKEY.

5. I AGAIN EXPLAINED THE INTRICACIES INVOLVED IN CONGRESSIONAL HEARING AND APPROVAL PROCESS AND ASSURED OKCUN THAT THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUED WISH TO REVITALIZE US-TURKISH RELATIONS AND VERY MUCH WANTED THE SUMMIT MEETING IN MONTREUX TO BE SUCCESSFUL. SPIERS

SECRET

NNN

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